

YORK COUNTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

York County has come a long way over the past several years. The items below highlight the many accomplishments of York County since 2008.

- **Building a fund balance and strengthening Reserves**

The current, designated/undesignated fund balance stands at approximately four million dollars. This has happened through borrowing of funds which the County is currently paying back on a regular basis along with tight budgets, continued thinking and savings where ever possible. The County remains committed to funding various reserve accounts.

YEAR ENDED	UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE (INCLUDES DESIGNATED & UNDESIGNATED)
12/31/2004	\$ (106,444)
12/31/2005	\$ (795,751)
12/31/2006	\$ (1,264,863)
12/31/2007	\$ 1,356,958
12/31/2008	\$ 1,119,597
12/31/2009	\$ 1,116,073
12/31/2010	\$ 2,167,913
12/31/2011	\$ 2,510,199
12/31/2012	\$ 3,071,367
6/30/2013 (unaudited)	\$ 3,983,607

funded by \$2.2M
capital lease

prepared by V. Ridlon, 3/6/14

- **Strong Financial Controls and Budgetary Oversight**

Through implementation of a series of financial controls ultimately resulting in a fiscal year change, the County has consistently ratcheted down the costs of financing operations saving the County hundreds of thousands of dollars.

- **Financing of TANS as funds are needed over the year and pay back**

In 2010, the County initiated a new system of borrowing its tax anticipation notes. The County collects its taxes in October thus requiring it to fund the first ten months of the year on borrowed money. By restricting operational financing, the Commissioners saved the County about \$300,000. In 2011, all of the bonds and capital leases were refinanced, saving an additional \$200,000.

- **Conversion to a July-June Fiscal Year**

Building upon prior changes, The County converted to a July-June fiscal year. This move drastically altered the County's cash flow resulting in a \$100,000 savings. Under our previous fiscal year, January to December, the County had to borrow money to fund operational expenses.

- **The County no longer borrows any money to fund operational expenses.**

- **Receipt of Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant in the amount of \$646,000 (Renovation of former jail)**

The County applied for and was successful in receiving a Federal grant in the amount of \$646,000.00. The grant was used to restore a portion of the former jail facility to house our Emergency Management Agency and our Information Technologies department. Now, the County Manager's office and his staff, the Finance Department and the Human Resource Director are also located in this building. The former Emergency Management Agency building was in a major state of disrepair. They now have a very safe emergency operations center.

- **Installation of Geo-thermal HVAC system at the York County courthouse.**

This project was completed in 2007 and as a result we have reduced heating costs at the courthouse by at least \$25,000.00 annually.

- **Pre-Release Center (Long term lease of the County's vacant pre-release center).**

York County entered the second year of a five year agreement with the State's Department of Corrections. The State has agreed to renovate the building for approximately \$180,000. York County will also recognize an additional \$70,000 a year in rental fees as revenues. York County will also be guaranteed a minimum of five beds at all times, which will result in a savings for York County.

- **Reduction in State jail cap of \$280,000.00**

York County Commissioners brought forth to the legislature in 2010 that our jail cap included an HVAC payment that would be paid off in 2013. Through a collaborative effort, the Commissioners were successful in their efforts to change the legislation reducing the cap by \$280,000.00.

- **Union Contracts**

The County will continue to negotiate contracts that are responsible and fair to all, including the taxpayers.

- **Arrangement with Master Gardeners which is a program of the York County Extension.**

They have taken the York County Courthouse as an ongoing landscaping project. The Master Gardeners have designed a master plan for the Courthouse for landscaping and gardens. They provide the labor and to the extent possible, the materials to put the courthouse back into the landscaping state that it should be.

- **Receipt of State Grant to perform handicap upgrades at the Courthouse**

Grants (in excess of \$100,000.00) received to provide new handicapped ramp and entrance, automated doors, handicapped restroom and new locks and door handles.

- **Bond Rating Upgrade to AA**

Over the past several years the bond rating for the County has incrementally increased. Our recent upgrade to AA is a reflection of our strong financial commitment in properly managing the County and a sign to us that we have been doing things right.

- **Added Key Staff**

York County recently hired our first-ever Human Resource Director. Not only will this enhance our organizational capacity in dealing with employee issues, but, it will also bring some much needed oversight to the various leave and benefit programs offered by the County.

- **York County Food Rescue**

For some time, the county had been considering the options for a 6,000 square foot vacant building. The vacant building, the former home of our Emergency Management Agency, was vacated when the renovations to the former jail were complete. By chance, we learned that the York County Food Rescue Program was being evicted from their current location. The result is that York County Government provides rent free facilities to a critical program that serves all of York County which is in keeping with the Commissioners' goals to provide or aid in the delivery of programs that benefit the entire County.

- **Code Red**

In March 2013, York County implemented a program called Code Red. Code Red is a high speed emergency communication system that allows government officials to communicate with citizens in times of emergencies and severe weather events.

- **York County Government, through our Probate Office continues to maintain its status as a certified passport acceptance facility.**
- **No Tax Increase**

We are proud to report that these accomplishments have been completed with no tax increases. In fact, York County has maintained a level tax assessment for four years running.